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The Mess In Ghanaian Politics

By Denis Andaban

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The word as people perceive it is not really so in its practice. I had a lot of interest following politics in both electronic and print media before taking a decision to engage in it.

My short engagement in politics has given a good opportunity to mirror relatives behind the scenes. I therefore ink this piece to share my short time experience. Let me kindly restrict myself to

Ghanaian partisan politics. he word as people perceive it is not really so in its practice. I had a lot of interest following politics in both electronic and print media before taking a decision to engage in it.

Democracy has brought to us the interplay of varying diverse idea as in policy formulation and decision making .It also what has created the opportunity for us to be identified with "political ideologies "otherwise called political tradition. In Ghana, there are two main political ideologies namely

(i) Social democracy

(ii) Capital/Liberal democracy

The ideology is the propagating instrument for political parties.Naturally; this encourages competition of ideas as in envisaging pragmatic solutions for national development.

Ironically in Ghana today, we tread along tribal, regional and religious grouping which falls short of the constitutional requirement that, a political party and its activities must be national in character. The cumulative though adverse effect is that, some political parties put their ideology aside in other to confuse policy and politics to score cheap political gains.

Cheap propaganda has taken away the flesh and potency of partisan democracy. We are now very far away from real partisan democracy. Our politicians are unconsciously naked in what I call "lazicracy" where our leaders become too lazy to think of better ways of economic growth. We cheaply criticize but never profess alternatives.

Where then is the popular statement "our unity and diversity lies our strength"?

As a communicator, I sometimes feel sad with our approach to discussing major development issues. The best communicator today is the one who shamelessly insult and blatantly lie publicly. Am very amazed at the extend people compromise our positive cultural values for mere propaganda. Tune to every radio station or television station in the morning and all you hear is wanton fabrication.

I think any meaningful politics should not rely on mere party slogans. We must be able to tackle any

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contemporary development challenge relative to our various political ideologies. It is indeed unfortunate some selfishly preach division at time we need unity and teamwork. It is uncommon to hear people boldly engage in tribal bigotry. Indeed, we have a long way to go.

It is high time we understood that, we must not do politics of convenience. It is not turning into a lion that is hard but getting the tail of it. Do not be a cheap politician, be a politician with vision and value coupled with the spirit of nationalism.

As it is now, we are all loss. We can change for the better if we accept the fact that we are loss. It is better late than never.

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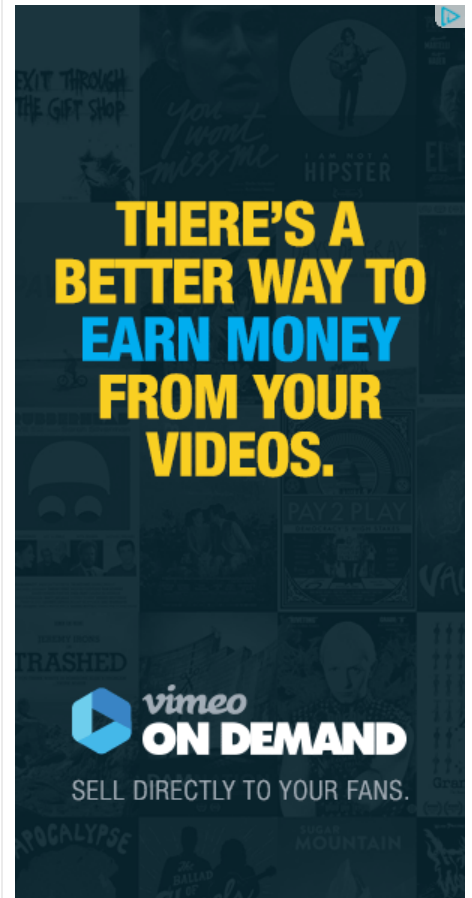
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